**iGCSE Geography Land use in Urban Areas – Help Sheet**

**What you might find in each zone ……**

**CBD Characteristics**

The CBD or Central Business District is the commercial centre. It contains the main shops, offices and financial institutions of the urban area. It is usually the most accessible (easy to get to) part of the city. This is because most of the main transport routes lead here. Due to high land values, buildings tend to be tall and building density is high.

**Industrial Wedge / Zone Characteristics**

An industrial sector would remain industrial as the zone would have a common advantage - perhaps a railway line or river or an area of flat land. Related industries locate in close proximity to each other to share skills and workforce.

Note how the low quality housing is generally next to the industrial zone, middle class next to low class and high class as far as possible from industry and low class.

**Low Class Residential Characteristics**

This area tends to contain high density housing and wholesale manufacturing. Housing is usually linear or in large blocks of apartment flats that were built in the 1960’s or 1970’s . This area tends to be run down unless housing has been redeveloped or gentrification has occurred. This area usually experiences social and economic problems. Low cost alcohol shops and bookmakers (gambling) establishments are often found in these areas

**Medium Class Residential - Characteristics**

This area contains private houses and apartments built during the inter-war period (1930's) and in the 1960’s and 70’s. Many of the houses found in this zone are semidetached (joined together). The houses are characterised by their front and back gardens, garages and bay windows. This are also contains some social housing. The apartments might have two or three bedrooms, a balcony (T2 & T3) and are generally well kept and close to shops and supermarkets.

**High Class Residential – Characteristics**

The urban rural fringe (on the boundary between the city and the countryside) contains a mixture of land uses. This includes residential areas, recreational facilities such as golf courses and farming.

These areas tend to contain areas of better quality housing. Gardens and houses are larger due to lower land values and more open space. The houses may be detached (standalone) have double garages and a pool too. There is usually a mixture of private and council-owned housing.

Areas of private housing usually consist of low density, high quality and high cost housing. The layout of these areas are usually crescent shaped and they have grass verges outside the house.